

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 11, 2003. Claims 28, 32-35, 42, and 46-57 are presented for examination, of which Claims 28 and 42 are in independent form. Claims 28, 42, 46, and 52 have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 28, 32-35, 42, and 46-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,195,068 (Suzuki et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,045 (Lumelsky et al.), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,398 (Ellenby et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that independent Claims 28 and 42, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 28 is directed to an imaging apparatus that includes first and second communication interfaces and a control unit. The first communication interface conforms to a first communication standard, and the second communication interface conforms to a second communication standard different from the first communication standard. The control unit sets the first communication interface in a passive state, which may not be used to communicate with another apparatus, and sets the second communication interface in an active state, which may be used to communicate with another apparatus, if the first communication interface detects that another apparatus is disconnected therefrom.

One of the notable features of Claim 28 is that the imaging apparatus facilitates

the transition from communicating via the first communication interface to communicating via the second communication interface by detecting when another apparatus is disconnected from the first communication interface and then setting the first communication interface to be passive and the second communication to be active.

Suzuki et al. relates to an image display system. As understood by Applicants, Suzuki et al. teaches the use of three display modes, which are not selected unless a mode switch 145 is operated (see column 18, lines 43-63).

Lumelsky et al. relates to a multimedia display with a controller for generating image signals for driving an image display of a specified resolution.

Ellenby et al. relates to an electro-optic vision system for producing an augmented image of a real-world scene.

Applicants submit that a combination of Suzuki et al. and Lumelsky et al. and Ellenby et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest an imaging apparatus that includes "a control unit, adapted to set said first communication interface in a passive state, which may not be used to communicate with another apparatus, and to set said second communication interface in an active state, which may be used to communicate with another apparatus, if said first communication interface detects that another apparatus is disconnected from said first communication interface," as recited in Claim 28.

As discussed above, Suzuki et al. is understood to require operation of the mode switch 145 to select between the three display modes, and Suzuki et al. is not seen to show or suggest setting a first communication interface to a passive state and a second communication

interface to an active state if it is detected that another apparatus is disconnected from the first interface. Further, Lumelsky et al. and Ellenby et al. fail to remedy the deficiencies of Suzuki et al.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 28 is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claim 42 includes a feature similar to that discussed above, in which a first communication interface is set to a passive state and a second communication interface is set to an active state if it is detected that another apparatus is disconnected from the first interface. Therefore, Claim 42 also is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from either Claim 28 or Claim 42 and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the above reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

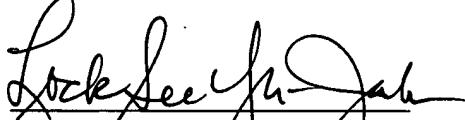
The present Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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